

I CLAIM

1. A suspender which will be used between a garment that covers the upper part of the body and the lower part of the body leaving the suspenders and the torso of the body exposed.
 - a. plurality of straps made of a flexible or elastic material
 - b. a clasp or other means attached to said straps enabling said straps to be adjusted in length.
 - c. a device at the distal ends of said straps enabling said straps to secure said suspender to said short upper garment and said lower low-cut garment being unobscured to the viewer.
2. A suspender as claimed in Claim 1 comprising:
 - a. a clasp or other means attached to said straps enabling said straps to be removed and replaced with straps of different colors made of flexible or elastic material.
3. A suspender as claimed in Claim 1 comprising:
 - a. a decorative piece which is attached to the straps that can be removed and replaced by other embodiments to suite the color and design preferences.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention.

This invention relates to trouser attachment for garment suspenders.
2. Description of Prior Art : In order to follow the development of the suspender it is useful to look at the prior art with the intention of considering how it is not only functionality but also the fashion trend at the time of the invention that dictates the usefulness of the invention. The invention of the elastic suspender goes back to over 100 years ago. U.S. Patent 468,561 (Dunham 2/1892) shows the typical suspenders that arc over the shoulder and support a pair of pants. The shoulders of the wearer provide the support for the suspenders. The latest (U.S. Patent 6,449,755 B1 Battaglia 9/2002) is a type that uses pressure fastener tabs to secure a blouse to a pair of pants. In between this time period other configurations have been utilized that pertain to the fashion at that particular period of time in history. A device to support a pair of lady's or child's hose was designed by Yost (U.S. Patent 733,927 7/1903) to wear with stockings or hose that were fashionable at that time. Robertson (U.S. Patent 790,314 5/1905) designed a type of suspender vest that is hidden under the shirt, as was Nigh's in 1914 (U.S. Patent 1,118,572) while Hausen's (U.S. Patent 1,216,991 2/1917) suspenders are for stockings/hose that are attached to a woman's girdle. A U-shaped hose supporter was designed by D'Ostroph (U.S. Patent 1,255,717 2/1918) while Corlew (U.S. Patent 1,281,523 10/1918) designed a hose supporter very similar to Yost but specifically of an appearance that would be more appropriate for men's wear. Another suspender by McCain (U.S. Patent 1,320,641 11/1919) was of a type to be worn with knee high stockings and attached to pantaloons. Postl's (U.S. Patent 1,404,719) design incorporates the attachment clips of other inventors but uses an additional elastic strap that is located below the knee apparently to provide more support for a man's sock. Postl also introduces the term "garter". Another Y shaped configuration appears in 1930 by Borenstein (U.S. Patent 1,746,413) that greatly elaborates the fastening mechanism but is basically a supporter for hose as are Yost's (1903) and the other early designs. In 1931 a patent was issued to Gelow (U.S. Patent 1,794,681) for a hose supporter that was worn with a pair of short pants and attached to the lower edge of a shirt. Another supporter was patented in 1931 (U.S. Patent 1,816,656) that consisted of a new attachment mechanism to be worn with a woman's corset to support the hose as was another corset/hose attachment designed by White in 1933

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(U.S. Patent 1,921,851). The quest for unique stocking attachments continued and in 1935 Donaldson (U.S. Patent 1,992,741) invented a stocking/shirt attachment device for a child wearing an undershirt. The stocking support continued to be adapted to current fashion and in 1941 Ellison (U.S. Patent 2,245,556) invented a device that could be worn on the shoulder as well as at the bottom of a corset.

As fashions slowly changed other designs were invented that incorporated ornamentation such as that designed by Wimmer in 1991 (U.S. Patent 5,054,128) to be used on stocking supports. Further configurations to support pants were invented by Utamaru in 2000 (U.S. Patent 6,163,890) that allowed variable points of attachments to the waistband of the pants. Another over the shoulder suspender was invented by Lewis in 2001 (U.S. Patent 6,167,573) that gave the wearer a great deal of flexibility in the adjustment of the straps. Brancato invented a jewelry type support for a halter top in 2001 (U.S. Patent 6,279,171) that could be considered a suspender but is also ornamental in nature. Brancato's design clearly indicates the changing nature of fashion as a garment like this would have been considered indecent 100 years previous. A suspender that attaches to the torso and supports a pair of pants was invented by Caldwell in 2001 (U.S. Patent 6,308,338 B1) with the additional attribute of keeping the pants supported while being hidden under the shirt. As mentioned earlier, in a departure from the traditional elastic straps, Battaglia (U.S. Patent 6,449,775 B1 9/2002) invented a device to attach a shirt to pants by using tabs that connect with pressure fasteners.

The suspender of the present invention incorporates the basic ideas of attaching one garment to another but unlike previous inventions this suspender attaches to the bottom of a current fashion of short blouse and to the waistband of a current fashion of low cut pants where the "waistline" of the pants is well below the navel. Unlike other inventions that attach a blouse to a waistband of the pants, the present invention is purposely intended to be worn uncovered and not concealed. The suspender of the present invention combines functionality with ornamentation. As worn, the present suspender not only supports the pants but prevents the blouse from riding up. Because the present suspender does not arc over the shoulders it can be attached at any point along the lower margin of the blouse providing great flexibility and personal preference for the wearer. Previous suspenders are limited in the scope of ornamentation in the aspect that ornamentation must blend with the shirt design and color. The present suspender does not have this limitation and can be decorated to provide ornamentation for the midriff and/or the lower back of the wearer. The present suspender has a unique aesthetic quality in providing some coverage of the midriff and/or lower back at the same time. It also creates an optical linear effect of making the midriff appear slimmer.

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